



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Progress in the Former Soviet Union and Central Europe as of January 30, 2006

Efforts Relating to the Cold War

Remains Repatriated (<i>Remains Individually Identified: 6</i>)	21	Remaining Unaccounted-for	77
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- The U.S.-Russia Joint Commission continues its research efforts on U.S. Cold War losses in various Russian archives. Thanks to these efforts, new witnesses have been identified, and Commission representatives have been able to locate and interview a number of these witnesses in Russia, Ukraine, and Latvia. This process has contributed to clarifying these loss incidents.
- JCSD's Russian researcher, Admiral (ret.) Novyy, has led efforts to conduct additional research in the Central Archives of the Border Guards at Pushkino, near Moscow.
- The U.S. Co-Chairman of the Cold War Working Group, Mr. A. Denis Clift, met with his Russian counterparts in Moscow during the 19th Plenum in June, 2005. The American side continues to seek broader access to Russian archives, succeeding in this effort when the Russians granted access to the archives of the Pacific Fleet (Vladivostok), the Border Guards (Moscow), and the Internal Affairs Ministry (Khabarovsk). Research in these important archives is ongoing.
- A team of Joint Commission researchers also is investigating numerous reports of American POWs who reportedly were incarcerated in the Soviet corrective labor camp system (GULag). These researchers have frequently traveled to Russia to conduct on-the-ground research at former GULag campsites and to interview former GULag prisoners. In addition, the team has initiated research at the State Archives of the Russian Federation to review at least some of the thousands of GULag-related documents generated by the Soviet ministry responsible for overseeing the GULag. Research at the U.S. National Archives also has been expanded to include thousands of reports from former German and Japanese POWs from World War II who were detained in the GULag, several of which have already yielded information on possible American POWs.

Efforts Relating to the Korean War

- Through the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, the U.S. has routine access to the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense at Podolsk, Russia, for research in unclassified files from the Korean War era. Since the establishment of the Commission in 1992, DPMO has collected more than 40,000 pages of materials relating to U.S. loss incidents in the Korean War. To date, 269 cases involving unaccounted-for American servicemen from the Korean War have been clarified to varying degrees thanks to this initiative.

- DPMO has concluded a contract for research in classified files at three important Russian archives. This two-year research effort promises first-ever access for American researchers to files that potentially contain important information about missing Americans from the Korean War.
- Joint Commission researchers have interviewed over 600 Soviet veterans of the Korean War since the Commission began its work in the former USSR. These interviews have provided valuable information about Soviet involvement in the Korean War and, in some cases, fate-clarifying information on unaccounted-for Americans. From this work, the Joint Commission has concluded in its 1996 Comprehensive Report that there is a high probability that a number of American POWs from the Korean War era were transferred to the former USSR.

Efforts Relating to the Vietnam War

- The U.S. side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission continues to press the Russian side for access to Vietnam War-era documents in Russian archives, especially the Ministry of Defense Central Archive in Podolsk, the GRU (Military Intelligence), and the security services' archives.
- Meanwhile, the Russian Co-Chairman of the Commission's Vietnam War Working Group, General Major Nikolai Bezborodov, who also is an elected deputy in the Russian parliament (the State Duma) has asked the Russian General Staff to declassify its holdings of Vietnam War-era documents. This is a hopeful development that the Commission will continue to pursue.
- On three occasions, the Russian side has passed a total of 356 declassified excerpts from the Podolsk archives containing sketchy shoot down information. The U.S. side analyzed these materials, and followed up with requests for more information. Each time the Russians responded that they had no additional, clarifying information.
- Senator Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) joined the Commission in March 2005. He will serve as the U.S. Chairman of the Vietnam War Working Group and met with Commission counterparts in Moscow in August 2005.

Efforts Relating to World War Two

- Research conducted by the Joint Commission led to a 2002 recovery at a WWII crash site in eastern Russia and the repatriation and positive identification of the seven-member crew of a U.S. Navy PV-1 lost in 1945.
- The JCSD Russian Far East expedition in August 2004 discovered wreckage from a WWII-era USAAF B-24 near Vestnik Bay. Research continues to further identify the aircraft and its crew.
- Field and analytical work in Hungary has provided valuable information on the circumstances of loss surrounding a dozen incidents encompassing over 20 unaccounted-for airmen.
- Joint Commission Support analysts have invested numerous hours conducting research in archives (Russia, Hungary, Croatia, and the Czech Republic), which has provided specific information, validated by site visits and interviews of witnesses to the loss incidents. The Working Group has expanded the effort to other Central European countries, including Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Slovenia.